

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as indicated below:

Please add the following Paragraph after line 14 on page 4:

As a further implementation of the method, the loop itself may be insulated with respect to the external environment by means of insulating materials, forming a well. In this regard, the well can be made of thermally insulating walls placed parallel to the faces of the strip which forms the loop.

Please add the following Paragraph after line 20 on page 5:

Additionally, as illustrated in Figure 2, a well 30 of thermally insulating material may be provided under the ingot mould 1. The well 30 may consist of thermally insulating walls placed parallel to the descending and ascending sections of the strip 4 which forms the loop 21.